

Lest we forget: Four Remembrance Day services on Nov. 11; Eight Royal Canadian Legion members

Sawyerville, East Clifton, Cookshire then on to Island Brook

By Barbara Lavoie

Burton McConnell of Lennoxville has thrown down the gauntlet. Not based on any scientific formula, but simply on a gut feeling, the past president of The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 165 in Sawyerville, believes they hold the most Remembrance Day services, bilingual of course, with the least number of members.

At least 1,500 legions are chartered to operate across Canada, the US and Europe, representing a membership of more than 360,000.

"And we always hold those services on the day, always on November 11," said McConnell with considerable pride as he pointed out his branch currently has just eight members, and that's twice as many as two years ago.

Those wishing to take up the challenge should be aware of just who they would be tangling with. This proud legion run by McConnell, President Jack Garneau of Sawyerville, and the other six dedicated members represent the wisdom and strength of a branch that's been in the game since 1947.

This year, Branch 165 is celebrating its 65th anniversary.

"It continues to be important to me to hold these services," said Garneau, who was born on a farm near East Clifton. "The men that died, whose names are read...I knew them, not well because I was a kid back then, but I knew them," he added.

Ten years ago, Branch 165 legion members decided, due to dwindling membership, to sell the building they had maintained for more than 50 years in town and to invest the finances realized from the sale in order to continue supporting various community projects.

From these resources and their annual poppy drive — be sure to buy yours at one of several outlets including the post office, convenience store, Sawyerville Hotel and restaurants in town — Branch 165 donates to the elementary school, senior's club (F.A.D.O.Q.), Eaton Valley Bible School, and Bulwer Community Centre in honour of esteemed legion member, the late George Pincheon.

McConnell, whose father was a longtime member, joined The Royal Canadian Legion 15 years ago out of sense of duty and "in the interest of keeping the legion going and the Remembrance Day services going."

Sunday, November 11

Four Remembrance Day services

By tradition the names of the men killed in the wars from each community are read aloud at the services organized by Branch 165 — adding an even deeper sense of meaning to the term "remembrance" used for all services held on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month each year to mark the armistice that ended the fighting in WWI.

"Claris Phillips, who is in her 90s and the widow of a soldier who fought in Hong Kong, always reads the list of the fallen in Sawyerville," said McConnell.

What becomes a Remembrance Day road tour attracting mourners of all ages from the surrounding areas, including Bury and Scotstown legion and community members, Branch 165 begins the day at 11 a.m.



BARBARA LAVOIE

Remembrance Day services begin at the Sawyerville cenotaph, the monument erected in honour of the fallen soldiers who fought valiantly in the Great Wars in front of the Caisse Desjardins, 6 Principale Street.

with a small parade up to the Sawyerville cenotaph in front of the Caisse Desjardins at 6 Principale Street.

The Last Post, the haunting lament to those who sacrificed their lives is heard, either by a live bugler or by audiotape; wreaths are laid, some by local school children; the list of the fallen is read; the national anthem is sung; and a few words are said by various clergy, municipal government representatives such as the mayor, and legion executive members.

Then members board their cars and drive south on Route 253 to the East Clifton United Church and its small cenotaph, one of the earliest built after WWI in 1919, to repeat the performance at 11:45 a.m. Of the 18 sent by this tiny hamlet, four lost their lives, and those who survived were decorated with many medals for their distinguished service and bravery.

Everyone is welcome to break bread with legion members at the Sawyerville Hotel. Lunch is paid for thanks to donations from Global Excel and the Allatt family, but the hat is passed, and the monies gathered are doubled by the legion for a further donation to the Eaton Valley Bible School.

This year's luncheon will feature a special 65th anniversary cake.

"Janice Graham always plays the piano during the lunch," said McConnell, adding, "And the president says a few words about the legion's current activities, like the repairs made to the Sawyerville cenotaph thanks to us and the MRC Cookshire-Eaton."

By 1:30 p.m., it's back in the cars for a drive to Cookshire's cenotaph in front of the elementary school and MRC offices in the middle of town for a similar service. Then, off to Island Brook for remembrances between 2 and 2:30 p.m., followed by refreshments of sweets, tea and coffee and socializing that lasts until approximately 4 p.m. in the town hall.

"I can still remember that wonderful oyster soup your father used to make for us after the service in Island Brook," Garneau said with affection to McConnell.

For more information about the upcoming services or about The Royal Canadian Legion, contact Burton McConnell at 819-569-3306.

Saturday, November 10

Bury Remembrance Day service

Bury's Remembrance Day service will be held on Saturday, November 10 at 2 p.m. in the Armoury Community Centre, 563 Main Street, and is organized, as usual, by The Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 48.

Bury holds the distinction of sending the most military personnel on a per capita basis in Canada. Branch 48 will celebrate its 80th anniversary next year, having begun in 1933.

This fact was backed up by Erwin and Muriel Watson, both Bury legion members, and interestingly, former members of the Sherbrooke Hussars during the 60s, where they practiced weekly and went on weekend camps to be ready to serve in the regular military in the event of war.

"With many of our members, and certainly our veterans who are in their late 80s and early 90s, getting up in age, we decided to hold our services indoors. This way they can comfortably attend, and so can young children and families," she said.

The Watsons usually attend the services organized by the Sawyerville legion members.

"Come one, come all," added the "hale and hearty" 90-year-old Erwin.

For more information about Branch 48, The Royal

CONT'D ON PAGE 4

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"Lest we forget"

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as we that are left grow old,
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn,
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning,
We will remember them.



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Remembrance Day Ceremonies

BURY

Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 48, Bury invites you to join us as we gather SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10th in Scotstown at 11 a.m. and in Bury at 2 p.m. to remember with profound gratitude our war dead. We also honour our Veterans who have died since; incredible men and women who were prepared to give their life for freedom.

We are happy to welcome Air Force Cadets from East Angus who will be present in Scotstown and in Bury.

Some highlights of our full Remembrance program include the laying of

Wreaths by several families and local organizations, as well as music by Madeleine Irving with soloist Mary White.

Lunch will be served in Scotstown courtesy of the Ceilidh Society and in Bury by the Bury United Cultural Center courtesy of Branch 48.

SAWYERVILLE

Sawyerville Legion Remembrance Day Services will be held at the cenotaphs, Nov. 11-Sawyerville 11 a.m., East Clifton 11.45 a.m., Cookshire 2 p.m., Island Brook 2 p.m.

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(Written during WWII)

Do not say that death has taken him away
But rather that his soul has been released.

His spirit now is free to roam at will in that ethereal place
Where all the sorrows and the ills of life have ceased.

He is not gone, his soul lives ever on
For what is man but soul encased in flesh and bone
That when set free, dies not, but enters that new world
Where heaven and earth are one,
beneath God's throne.

A world where someday you and I, like those before
Will meet again the ones we loved and mourn.
They did not die, but found God's promised land,
A land of peace and joy and happiness reborn.

By Irene Horrocks
Wales Home, Richmond

To THE FOLKS OVER THERE

written August 19, 1940

Cheer up folks, I've got some good news,
So pack up your worries
And brush off your blues.

For Canada's coming, to stand by your side
Boys stalwart and fearless
We send them with pride.

Yes, Canada's soldiers, the best in our land
Are crossing the rough seas
To give you a hand.

Their unconquerable spirits are bound to win through
So never lose heart
Whatever you do.

And Canada's women are doing their share
They're knitting and sewing
Warm clothes you can wear.

And opening their homes to war refugees
And raising money
With afternoon teas.

So copy the birds, they sing just the same
When a storm blows their nest down
They build it again.

So shake yourselves hard and take a look 'round
There's lots of blue sky
And sun to be found.

By Irene Horrocks
Wales Home, Richmond



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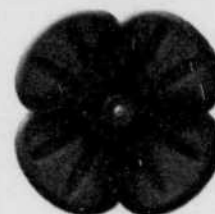
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We will remember them

By Claudia Villemaire
DANVILLE

Their numbers keep dwindling but the determination to remember their fallen comrades never diminishes. For 85 years, the Danville Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion has been mustering, spit and polish the order of the day, flag holders draped over aging shoulders, medals sometimes almost covering Legion blazer fronts. No one complains about the weather or the chill in the air. Negative comments about discomfort are met with remarks that bring home the reason for this tradition.

"Nothing compared to what the boys went through," is an automatic reminder that this is not a happy occasion. Many will point out the socializing that brings folks of like mind and similar memories together where reminiscing is not always easy and most often a sad recollection of friends and comrades lost in the field of battle.

Last Saturday, under murky, gray skies, intermittent rain and temperatures hovering barely above zero degrees, about 40 legionnaires, including a contingent from the Richmond Branch 15, marched in formation, the line of flag carriers braced against a chilly breeze, up the quarter mile or so from the Danville legion hall, gathering in the Danville Town Square for a ceremony that has been repeated each year for nearly a century.

René Tremplette, well-known musician from the Asbestos area, sounded the Last Post and Reveille while, with heads bowed and rain droplets trickling down exposed skin on weathered faces, a small crowd gathered to once again honour the fallen. Here, tradition means calling the roll, naming each missing comrade, with the answer from the ranks, "absent." Two minutes of silence seem barely adequate when, listening to the chatting among veterans later, the actual facts of life and death on the front lines affected the entire lives of so many thousands at home and abroad.

One only has to pay attention. There was Jack Hobbs, one of few World War II veterans still able to take part — refusing to put his overcoat on, stating he was just fine compared to the weeks and months the boys spent in the muddy, half-flooded trenches. "The least I could do," he insisted. Kathy Arnott did manage to keep the rain off Hobbs and Glen Wilson as they returned the salute during the march-past. John Charby hurried to install the P.A. system in the recurring showers, trying to keep speakers dry and his own fingers nimble in the cold. Bob McKeage conducted the ceremonies, inviting deputies and Members of Parliament, municipal leaders and local organizations to come forward with their wreaths, including this year's Silver Cross mother, Evelyn Davidson-Horan. The small crowd, shoulders hunched, stood, shivering, not moving with heads bowed and the shadows of memories of loved ones who, long ago, never came home showing in their eyes and expression.

To remember — each year — even



though nearly a century has passed since the first war to end all wars began in 1914 is not only a challenge but also a responsibility now and in future. Education, studies that spell out the reasons, horrors and suffering of armed forces and civilians both at home and abroad should be one of the priorities on any school board's consideration of subjects and/or topics. "They will not grow old.... We will remember them."



On November 11, let us pause for 2 minutes to honour the memory of those who gave their lives that we might live in freedom!

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks still bravely singing fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the dead: Short days ago,
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,

Loved and were loved: and now we lie
In Flanders fields!
Take up our quarrel with the foe
To you, from failing hands, we throw
The torch: be yours to hold it high
If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields

by Lieut. Col. John McCrae

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of those who gave their lives that
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Henry Dinning	Charles Pope
Thomas Eustace	John Porter
Angus Ford	Lennox Robertson
Edward Ireland	Reginald Robinson
Wilbur Ladd	Harry H. Scott
Louis Lemieux	William Ward
James Lobban	Gerald Wilkinson
Howard Millar	James W. Williams
Charles Mitchell	Arthur Percival Williams

World War II

Edward Ames	Leslie McCaig
Donald Bennett	John Milne
James Bilkey	Bruce Munroe
Edward Boothroyd	Walter Page
Ross Bradford	Edward Parker
David Budden	Sherman Peabody
Douglas Carmichael	Henry Pibus
John Carroll	Kenneth Pyper
Donald Chute	Derrick Ridge
Basil Doak	Russell Rexford
Gordon Doak	William Rogers
Philip Duval	Kenneth Simms
Paul Ethier	Gilbert Stairs
Hugh Gall	Trevor Stevens
Henry Gray	James Symington
Donald Jack	Henry Trenholme
William King	Ray Tulk
Robin Lindsay	Waldo Tulk
Brian Lynn	Arnold Woodside
Franklin Lyster	
Gerald Mackay	
Hugh Mackenzie	
Vernon E. Mayhew	
Archibald McKell	
John Michaels	



54391

Former fighter pilot honoured

John Colton was a former squadron leader and fighter pilot, who flew a Hawker Typhoon during the Second World War. He carried out 104 missions over enemy territory in Europe and was recently honoured with a certificate in Ottawa.

He not only fought for our freedom, but he continues to visit education centres and schools on Remembrance Day to remind students of the sacrifices Canadians made for our freedom.

As Winston Churchill said, "Never in the history of human conflict, has so much been owed by so many, to so few."



Local veterans awarded Queen's Jubilee Medals



Veterans were presented with the Queen's Jubilee Medal in Sherbrooke.

Unique program helps veterans

The only program of its kind in Canada that assists veterans in their transition back to civilian life has received the full endorsement for national expansion from Royal Canadian Legion, along with \$500,000 spread over the next two years. Gordon Moore, the Dominion President of The Royal Canadian Legion, and Tim Laidler, executive director, Veterans Transition Network, announced the partnership at Legion House.

Originally established in 1997 by the University of British Columbia as the Veterans Transition Program with funding from the Legion BC/Yukon Command, the free program addresses the invisible wounds of service personnel to help them recover and regain a healthy, full life.

"The University of British Columbia's pilot Veterans Transition Program involved some 275 veterans and has proven to decrease depression and trauma and boost self-esteem - three of the primary

barriers to making a successful transition to civilian life," says Moore. "The Legion is satisfied with the merits of the program at the local level and would now like to help UBC expand this program to meet the growing need for transition support for all CF veterans."

Any attempt at a national program delivery requires funds to increase awareness, advocacy and train more paraprofessionals across the country; a key role the Legion is proud to play," says Moore.

"Soldiers returning from service face complex issues and require multiple layers of support."

"This is one of the best examples of the community, postsecondary and troops working together to provide an established treatment program that will help all veterans."

Lest we forget

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

Canadian Legion, contact Erwin Watson at 819-872-3437.

Saturday, November 10

Scotstown Remembrance Day service

The Scotstown Remembrance Day service will take place at 11 a.m. in the upstairs town hall, 101 Victoria Street.

A free community lunch is planned by the Ceilidh Society with everyone welcome to join in.

Recently turning 80 years old, Germaine MacAulay, even though her husband and Bury legion member alongside her passed on 10 years ago, continues to organize the event.

"It's (the annual service) important to me and I think it's important to the entire population to remember," said MacAulay, adding, "It's also important for the younger generation for they've got to realize the great wars were part of history and are still part of our history for we live in a free country and that comes at a price."

Usually the Scotstown legion members, eight with three being veterans, travel to Bury to participate in their service in the afternoon.

For more information about the Scotstown Remembrance Day service, contact Germaine MacAulay at 819-657-4930.

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Friday, November 9

11 a.m.

The Cenotaph

HATLEY

Saturday, November 10

11 a.m.

The Cenotaph on the Common

AYER'S CLIFF

Sunday, November 11

11 a.m.

The Monument
Centre of the Village



We would like to salute
all the veterans
who gave their lives for us.

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